

Andrew Jackson to Thomas Pinkney, December 10, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO THOMAS PINCKNEY.¹

¹ This letter is a rough draft in Jackson's handwriting. Following it with the date of Dec. 11 is the letter as it came from the hands of his competent aide, Maj. John Reid. Both documents are reproduced to show in what respect Jackson may be considered the author of his official letters at this stage of his career.

Fort Strother December 10 1813

Sir: I have the pleasure to acknowledge the recpt of your letter of date the 16th of November, with your instructions of the same date, and your letter of date 29th. of Novbr. from your head quarters Milledgville, all handed me this evening by your express.

On the 1st. day of this instant at Fort Deposit I recd. a letter from Governor B. covering a letter from the war Department of and another of which advised me of the Presidents order to you to take the command and direction of the present expedition against the creeks. I immediately wrote you by express via Genl Co[c]kes encampment, requesting the Genl to forward it to you by express, which will advise you—(here again give the substance of the letter). I also wrote you on the 8th. Instant, and has pushed this express thro the creek country. I had two objects in view in sending it through this dangerous rout—first that it may reach you sooner, and secondly, that I might acquire further information of the position of the hostile Creeks, that rumor states has beaten the advance of the Georgia army and the Cowetas.² my first letter will advise you of the fatal cause after the victory at Tulladega that compelled me to retrograde. It has had a banefull effect upon my Troops. to

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prevent them from literally starving I was compelled to march them to meet the provisions. The privations the[y] suffered, the retrograde movement, filled every mind with home, and sedition and mutiny stalked in my army. With difficulty without blood shed I have put it down but two of the finest volunteer regt. under the acts of Congress of February 6th. and July 6, have become restless and their officers for their men claiming there discharge—here state the ground. Genl Coffees Brigade of Volunteer Cavalry and mounted gun men, I was compelled after the Battle of Talladega to send into Madison County to forrage their horses, and to ration themselves, his strength when he left me 1033 privates including officers non commissioned officers and privates 1169. State the present scarcity of provision, and future prospects—here express a regret that the want of supplies and my cavalry in the rear prevent me from sending on a strong detachment, to cooperate with Genl adams. Infantry could not answer his wishes, unless so strong as to be able to meet the whole strength of the hostile creeks. they could not save themselves by regular retreat, much less by flight. I am always opposed to pushing my advance farther than in case of need, with my main body I can cover, aid and protect it. My former letter will shew my plan, which I feel much gratified so nearly meets his instructions. My intention to build a strong Fort, at the Junction of the C. and T.3 or about 20 below on the allabama. If the ground in the Fork will afford a good seite the fork preferable, as we will be able [to] secure the fork and erecting a redoubt on the south east bank of Taliposa and a fortified camp we will be able to drive them the Taliposa and afford compleat protection for supplies in reserve. I have no hesitation in believeing that the most certain supplies from mobile point—next to that, down Tennessee to Fort D. Here describe it, and shew the advantage. I have no information from Genl Flournoy or Claibourne, altho I have written to Genl Flournoy and Govr Holmes some time since by mail. The last account I had from that quarter was from Colo. Mkee, who, I sent on to the choctaw nation with 25 men to watch the movements of the creeks in that quarter and stimulate the Choctaws to a declaration of war with the creeks, he some time since advised me that the choctaws had declared war against the creeks. The creeks therefore will be prevented from escaping to the west bank of the mississippi.

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2 A friendly branch of the Creeks.

3 The initials stand for Coosa and Tallapoosa.